

Message Text

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13

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 PM-09 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 USIA-12 PRS-01 NEA-10

EUR-25 RSR-01 /112 W

----- 064066

R 150805 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3874

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

CINCPAC CAMP H. M. SMITH HAWAII

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TOKYO 6022

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E. O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, SN

SUBJECT: PRIMIN LEE PROPOSAL FOR JOINT NAVAL TASK FORCE

REF: A. TOKYO 5833

B. STATE 90313

1. TOKYO PRESS REPORTED PRIMIN LEE'S PROPOSAL FOR JOINT NAVAL TASK FORCE ESSENTIALLY ALONG LINES OF AP DISPATCH QUOTED REF B.

2. LEE'S STATEMENT, ACCORDING TO ONE PRESS ACCOUNT, WAS IN RESPONSE TO QUERY ABOUT WHAT SORT OF ROLE JAPAN COULD PLAY IN MAINTAINING PEACE AND GUARANTEEING NEUTRAL ASIA, TO WHICH HE REPLIED QTE I AM QUITE SURE JAPAN CAN MAKE CONTRIBUTION TO PEACE AND SECURITY, FIRST BY NOT GOING NUCLEAR AND, SECOND, BY NOT HAVING LARGE INDEPENDENT NAVAL TASK FORCE UNQTE. HE THEN WENT ON TO SUGGEST THAT JAPAN COULD BE PART OF TASK FORCE COMPRISING US, AUSTRALIA, AND EVENTUALLY WESTERN EUROPE QTE TO KEEP PACIFIC AND INDIAN OCEANS FREE FOR ALL COUNTRIES UNQTE. LEE WAS THEN ASKED IF MULTINATIONAL TASK FORCE SHOULD HAVE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GROUND AND AIR COMPONENTS, TO WHICH HE REPLIED THAT MODERN CONCEPT OF SUCH FORCE INCLUDED AIRCRAFT. QTE BUT I DO NOT ENVISAGE MARINE FORCES. LEBANESE TYPE OF OPERATION (MARINE LANDING) IS OUTDATED AND THERE IS GREAT DEAL OF PSYCHOLOGICAL RESISTANCE --- ALMOST AN ANATHEMA --- TO ANOTHER SOUTH VIETNAM. I THINK NAVAL AND AIR COMPONENT WILL BE SUFFICIENT GUARANTEE THAT GENDARMERIE IS FITTED TO DEAL WITH EXTERNAL AND ILLEGAL USE OF FORCE UNQTE. ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNT, LEE STATED PRIVATELY AFTER PRESS CONFERENCE HAD FINISHED THAT TASK FORCE SUGGESTION HAD ALREADY BEEN PUT FORTH BY OTHERS, NOTABLY US.

3. EMBASSY HAS ASKED SINGAPORE EMBASSY FOR TRANSCRIPT OF PRESS CONFERENCE BUT WAS TOLD ONLY VERBATIM RECORD EXISTS ON TAPE WHICH WAS TAKEN ALONG BY PRIMIN' S PARTY. THEY SAID US EMBASSY SINGAPORE COULD GET TRANSCRIPT BY CONTACTING BROADCASTING SECTION OF SINGAPORE MINISTRY OF CULTURE.

DECON 1/1/75
INGERSOLL

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NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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30 JUN 2005

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